



Pollution Solutions FACT SHEET 1

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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Oahu is home to nearly one million residents who have a direct effect on our island environment and water quality.

WHAT IS POLLUTED RUNOFF?

When it rains, water flows over streets and yards carrying the pollutants it picks up into storm drains. Storm drains are not connected to wastewater treatment plants. So, what's in the streets flow directly into our streams and ocean. With more than 20,000 storm drain inlets, and over 670 miles of storm drains to clean and maintain, we need your help.

WHAT ARE BMPs?

Many simple yet effective methods can be used to help reduce individual runoff. These are called Best Management Practices or BMPs.

Some storm water BMPs can be implemented when first planning and building the home and designing the landscape. Other can be incorporated into day-to-day activities. The cumulative effect throughout an entire watershed can contribute to improved storm water management.

WHAT ARE POLLUTANTS?

"Pollutant" means any waste, cooking or fuel oil, waste milk, waste juice, pesticide, paint, solvent, radioactive waste, hazardous substance, sewage, dredged spoils, chemical waste, rock, sand, biocide, toxic substance, construction waste and material, and soil sediment. The term also includes commercial FOG waste as defined under Section 14-5A.1.

"Pollution problem" means the discharge of any pollutant into state waters directly or by conveyance through a drainage facility which creates a nuisance or adversely affects the public health, safety or welfare, or causes a drainage facility to violate any provisions of the city National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit or violates any water quality standards of the State of Hawaii.

9 Pollution Tips

Actions you can do around your home to make a difference!

1. Keep sidewalks, curbs and gutters clean
2. Prevent soil and debris from leaving your property
3. Gather grass and tree cuttings and dispose as green waste, or compost your yard trimmings
4. Purchase used oil change box; soak up spilled oil and dispose of appropriately
5. Remove and dispose of pet waste before you leave an area
6. Use water-based paint and discard properly
7. Use only the amount needed of pesticides and fertilizers
8. Wash your car with plain water or consider washing it on the lawn
9. Keep household cleaning products from becoming hazardous waste

PLANNING AND LANDSCAPING BMPs

- Prevent soil and debris from leaving your property.
- Sweep excess dirt and sediment runoff from landscaping or watering from sidewalks and driveways into grassed or planted areas.
- Consider alternatives to concrete- or asphalt-paved surfaces. If you have a choice, consider more porous surfaces such as brick, gravel, wood chips, stone slab, or geo-textile materials.
- If areas must be paved, keep it to a minimum and direct runoff onto vegetated areas, not onto areas that drain to storm drains.
- Mulch and plant exposed soil as soon as possible. Use sediment barriers when necessary.
- Plant buffer strips of natural vegetation and woody plants to filter and slow runoff alongside waterways.

YARD WASTE

- Sweep yard waste such as grass clippings, fallen leaves, bush trimmings and keep them out of the storm drain system
- Use fallen leaves as mulch or for composting.
- Yard waste is restricted at City disposal sites to no more than 10% per truck-load. Onsite do-it-yourself shredding and mulching is also an option.
- Utilize green waste collection. Projected start date is March 1, 2006, beginning in blue bin communities and expanding islandwide in phases.
- Drop off at City Convenience Centers for Refuse and Recycling or take directly to the composting facility, Hawaiian Earth Products. Learn how to turn yard waste into mulch and compost at greencycling workshop, call 692-5410 for more information.
- Use grass clippings as fertilizer. Leave grass clippings on your lawn when you mow to return nutrients to the soil. Saves labor time and trash bag expenses too.

The Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH), Section 14-20.1 Cleaning and Maintaining Sidewalks, Driveways states, "Every property owner whose land abuts or adjoins a public street shall continually maintain, and keep clean, passable and free from weeds and noxious growths, the sidewalk and gutter areas."

Environmental Concern Line 692-5656 Help protect our waters ... for life!



Discharging pollutants to the storm drain system is against the law. Violations can result in fines of up to \$25,000 per violation, per day.

Know the law to avoid fines. The Clean Water Act gave the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to implement water pollution control programs. In an effort to comply with the EPA's mandate, the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Section 14-12.23(a) Environmental Quality Control - Violation states, "It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged any pollutant into any drainage facility which causes a pollution problem in state waters, or causes a violation of any provision of the city NPDES permit or the water quality standards of the State of Hawaii."

Be A Part Of The Solution

The City and County of Honolulu and the State Department of Transportation, working under Federal Clean Water Act Guidelines, has a number of public education programs that focus on community involvement and targeted enforcement to eliminate or reduce illegal discharge practices.

Existing projects such as the storm drain stenciling, Adopt-A-Stream Workshops, World Water Monitoring Day, and Adopt-A-Block cleanup and monitoring programs, provide opportunities to train a committed neighborhood.

Report It, Who to Call

As a resident, you can make a difference, both on the job and in your community. When you're at home, share your knowledge with neighbors and family. As you drive to work, report any illegal discharge.

Spill Response (Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response)

- Local (HFD): 911 (24/7)

- State (HSERC): 586-4249 (business hours), 247-2191 (after hours)

To report illegal discharge that has already occurred, call 692-5656

NPDES permitting questions: 692-5207

Polluted runoff public outreach: 692-5208 (City), 586-4309 (State)



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www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com

www.opala.org

www.co.honolulu.hi.us/env/rc/index1.htm

PET WASTE

- Remove and properly dispose of pet waste from public areas and other people's property before you leave an area.
- Design considerations include vegetated buffers, pooper-scoopers, and steep slopes to help control the impact of dog waste on receiving waters.
- Also visit the Hawaiian Humane Society web site at www.hawaiianhumane.org/animallaws/index.html.

CAR BATTERIES AND MOTOR OIL

- Give your old car batteries to the dealer when purchasing new ones or you may take them to the City Convenience Center nearest you.
- Check your car or truck for drips and oil leaks regularly.
- Use used oil change box or pour into a plastic bag with an absorbent material, seal the bag and dispose with your regular trash.
- Clean up spills immediately. Use ground cloths or drip pans under your vehicle if you are doing engine work.
- All junk autos are recycled. Call 532-4325 or go to a Satellite City Hall to arrange for free auto junking services for your car. Call 733-2530 to report abandoned autos. Do not store used vehicle parts on areas that drain to the storm drain.

PAINT

- Dispose of small quantities generated at home with your regular trash.
- Latex paints can be hardened in the can, then thrown away.
- Oil-based paints must be aolidified with absorbent materials, such as sawdust, rags or shredded newspaper, then sealed in a plastic bag. A used oil change box provides the same results.
- Use water-based paint whenever possible.

PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZER

- Avoid excess watering and overuse of pesticides and fertilizers; use pesticides and fertilizers according to the instructions on the package and only purchase what you need.
- Fertilizer and its packaging may be disposed of in household trash.
- Call 692-5411 on how to dispose of a particular pesticide product.

WASHING

Car wash discharges from both single family and multi-family residences are allowed with consideration of these BMPs:

- Direct wash water to a planted area so the wash water can percolate into the ground. Use a bucket and or nozzle for your hose to keep water from running continuously.
- Dispose of leftover soapy water (in your bucket) into a toilet or sink, not on the driveway or street. If runoff cannot be kept on your property, it may be directed into the sanitary sewer cleanout.
- Use detergent sparingly, and only those with low or no phosphates (phosphate is a nutrient which can contribute to algae blooms). Use only the amount necessary to loosen soil. A rule of thumb is to use no more cleaner than can be rinsed using a 5 gallon bucket of rinse water.

You may wash your car on City street if the use of water is kept to a minimum, and washing does not create a nuisance, traffic hazard, or environmental problem. If possible, sweep the street gutter prior to washing and dispose of debris properly.

- Charity car washes are allowed with consideration of BMPs.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Use non-hazardous and environmentally safe cleaning products that don't contain phosphorous or other toxic chemicals.
- Avoid having household cleaning products become hazardous waste by buying only what you need and using it.
- Store oil, paint, gasoline, antifreeze, and other automotive products properly, under-cover. Dispose of batteries and tires properly.
- Call 692-5410 to find out how to dispose of a product.

